

12 (currently amended). An actuating device comprising:

at least two linear actuators configured in a parallel orientation, wherein each actuator includes a housing having cooperating slots and protrusions on an exterior surface thereof for connecting the actuators, a stop displaceable on a linear axis with respect to the housing, at least one wire formed of a shape-memory alloy attached at a first end to the stop and at a second end to the housing for applying a pulling force to the stop when heated to a predetermined temperature to cause the stop to slide in a first direction, and a spring applying a biasing force to the stop in a second direction counter to the first direction;

a plate adapted for concurrently attaching to each actuator stop; and

an electrical source for applying an electrical current to the wire of each actuator to cause the wire to heat to a predetermined temperature.

21 (currently amended). An actuating device comprising:

at least two linear actuators configured in a serial orientation, wherein each actuator includes a housing defining an interior channel, a stop displaceable on a linear axis with respect to the housing, at least one wire formed of a shape-memory alloy attached at a first end to the stop and at a second end to the housing for applying a pulling force to the stop when heated to a predetermined temperature to cause the stop to slide in a first direction into the housing interior channel, and a spring applying a biasing force to

the stop in a second direction counter to the first direction;

an electrical source for applying an electrical current to heat the wire of each actuator to a predetermined temperature; and

a controller for causing the electrical source to apply current to predetermined individual applicator wires at predetermined timed intervals.